

## LONDON POST-GRADUATE COURSE.

*President:* JONATHAN HUTCHINSON, F.R.S., LL.D.; *Chairman of Committee:* THOMAS BARLOW, M.D.; *Treasurer:* C. THEODORE WILLIAMS, M.D.

THIS course of lectures and demonstrations has been founded for the purpose of utilising to the fullest extent the clinical material of those hospitals to which no medical school is attached, and to afford further facilities to qualified practitioners who desire to increase their knowledge by the study of the diseases treated in those institutions.

The year is divided into three terms of eight weeks each. The spring term commences about the middle of January, and ends early in March; the summer term begins early in May, and ends in June; and the winter term begins about the middle of October, and ends early in December.

Nine separate courses are delivered at the following hospitals: The Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, Brompton; the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street; the National Hospital for the Paralysed and the Epileptic, Queen Square; the Royal Ophthalmic Hospital, Moorfields; the Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Blackfriars; the Bethlem Royal Hospital for Lunatics; the London Throat Hospital; the Bacteriological Laboratory, King's College; and the Pathological Department, Great Northern Central Hospital.

The teaching is essentially practical, and is illustrated by numerous cases which the members have ample opportunities of examining under the guidance of the lecturers. The use of the microscope, ophthalmoscope, laryngoscope, and of the nasal and aural specula are practically taught. The total number of lectures each term is 112, and are so arranged that all can be attended by the members. Ample time is allowed for those who wish to take out the practice of the hospitals, and arrangements have been made so that a practitioner can enter for any or all of the courses, and for any or all of the hospitals for one month or for two months (the duration of the term) according to the time at his disposal. The fees are £1 1s. and £2 2s. for the separate courses, depending on the number of lectures and demonstrations in each of them. The inclusive fee for the whole course is £13 13s. Information as to the terms for hospital practice is given in the prospectus. Certificates of attendance are granted at the conclusion of the term. Qualified women are admitted to all the lectures except at Bethlem, where a separate class is arranged for them.

A prospectus and further information will be supplied by, and all fees should be paid to, John Fletcher Little, M.B., Secretary, 60, Welbeck Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.

## CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL.

## POST-GRADUATE CLASS AND LECTURES.

SPECIAL series of clinical lectures and practical demonstrations, exclusively arranged for the convenience of practitioners and post-graduate students, are given at the hospital by members of the staff throughout the year. The lectures for the year are arranged in three courses, each course consisting of ten meetings, and lasting ten weeks. Two of these courses are held during the winter, and one during the summer. The class meets on each Thursday afternoon, at 4 P.M., in the Board Room of the hospital, and proceeds thence to the wards or other department in which the demonstration may be held. The fee at present charged for each course of ten lectures is one guinea. The first of the two winter courses of the ensuing academical year will commence on October 15th next, and will be conducted by the following members of the medical and surgical staff: Drs. Green, Bruce, Willcocks, Mott, Routh, and Messrs. Bloxam, Boyd, Sheild, Waterhouse, Fairbank.

Practitioners wishing to join the class can receive any further information as to the dates and subjects by communicating with the Hon. Secretary (Dr. Willcocks) or the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. Boyd) at the Hospital.

**DEATHS IN THE PROFESSION ABROAD.**—Among the members of the medical profession who have recently died in foreign countries are Dr. Vincenzo Dattilo, formerly Professor of Surgery in the University of Naples; and Dr. Ludwig Schenk, one of the leading practitioners of Baden, for many years Physician-in-Ordinary to Prince and Princess Wilhelm of Baden.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## THE GUILD OF ST. CECILIA.

SIR,—As several journals have misunderstood the objects of the Guild of St. Cecilia, which has been formed for the purpose of supplying trained musicians who may promptly obey the summons of physicians desiring to use their services, I enclose to you, by request of the committee of the aforesaid Guild, a prospectus, which will show that no intention is entertained of acting without the advice of physicians.

It may interest some of your readers to study the seventh scene in the fourth act of *King Lear*, where Shakespeare makes a physician restore the aged King to his senses by lulling him to sleep with soft music. The physician has faith in the means employed, for he says to Cordelia: "When we do awake him, I doubt not of his temperance. Please you draw near. Louder the music there!" When the King wakes he supposes, first, that he has been dead, then that he is dreaming, but after a while recovers his senses and recognises his daughter.

There are, doubtless, many other passages in the works of English writers and poets which have reference to the healing power of music. Herrick, you will remember, wrote a beautiful little prayer "to music to becalm his fever," commencing: "Charm me asleep."—I am, etc.,

FREDERICK K. HARFORD.

Dean's Yard, Westminster.

## DEATH FROM AN OVERDOSE OF EPSOM SALTS.

SIR,—In the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of August 29th, I notice a brief account of a case of death occurring in Scotland from an overdose of Epsom salts. It may be of interest here to record that in 1887 I made an investigation on behalf of Dr. Danford Thomas, coroner for Central Middlesex, into the circumstances attending the death of a female servant, the result of the inquiry being that death was apparently due to an overdose of Epsom salts. The deceased, aged 20, retired to her bedroom at night apparently in her usual health, and the following morning was found lying on her bed, fully dressed, and dead; the bed had not been occupied, and death had occurred some hours previously. On the dressing table was found a tumbler containing some small white crystals. I made a thorough chemical examination of the contents of the tumbler, and of the stomach and other viscera of the deceased. The crystals in the tumbler consisted of Epsom salts only; the stomach was not inflamed, and contained one ounce and a half of a light-coloured semi-fluid mixture, the analysis of which revealed only the presence of Epsom salts as an abnormal constituent. No poison could be discovered in any of the viscera. It came out in evidence that deceased had purchased, the day before her death, an ounce of Epsom salts (which she had apparently taken on an empty stomach), with the result that death was probably caused by fatal syncope.—I am, etc.,

ARTHUR P. LUFF, M.D., B.Sc., M.R.C.P.

Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence and Public Health in St. Mary's Hospital.

## MODIFICATION OF THE ORDINARY METHOD OF OPERATING FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE TENDON OF A RECTUS MUSCLE.

SIR,—I have just read Dr. Argyll Robertson's paper on the above subject presented to the Ophthalmological Section at the annual meeting at Bournemouth, and I beg leave to make one or two remarks thereon.

Soon after Dr. Robertson read his paper I took the liberty of sending him a reprint of the account of my own operation, published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL in 1887, vol. i, p. 874, from which I think he will find (if he will do me the honour of reading it) that I had forestalled him in the main features of the modification he now introduces to the notice of the profession. The single loop described and figured in my paper is there introduced for the first time, as far as my knowledge goes, and I hope you will permit me to make this claim, lest the great weight of Dr. Robertson's distinguished name should deprive me of whatever credit may be due for the simplification of the method of operation for the advancement of the insertion of the recti muscles.